O'HARA'S LEAVE PLEA GRANTED

TP 10/12/67

Judge Braniff to Handle Grand Jury Work

The Supreme Court of Louisiana Wednesday relieved Criminal District Court Judge Malcolm V. O'Hara from his duties.

The court said Judge O'Hara in a letter dated Tuesday asked an indefinite leave of absence.

It designated Criminal District Court Judge Matthew S. Braniff to receive returns and findings of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury during O'Hara's absence.

The court also divided O'Hara's work between the other criminal court judges, with each sitting temporarily in his Section A until further orders of the Supreme Court.

Gov. John J. McKeithen last week asked Attorney General Jack P. F. Gremillion to proceed with impeachment motions against O'Hara.

The judge met with criticism for allegedly taking part in efforts to get a witness in the jury tampering trial of Teamster Union President James Hoffa to change his testimony. O'Hara contends he was just a messenger in an attempt to have Edward Grady Partin of Baton Rouge sign an affidavit that Hoffa was convicted with illegal wiretap evidence.

The revelation of the incident came in a federal court hearing in Chicago where O'Hara was a witness along with Zachary Strate, a New Orleans contractor.